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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01
/087 W
----------109260 060456Z /17
R 060335Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8474
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 3853

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, ASEAN, US
SUBJ: ASEAN TARIFF CUTS

REF: MANILA 13661

1. SUMMARY: AFTER BRIEF ANALYSIS, EMBASSY TENTATIVELY CONCLUDES THAT SINGAPORE OFFERINGS FOR ASEAN TARIFF REDUCTIONS WILL HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON US EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE. TOTAL VOLUME OF US EXPORTS INVOLVING PRODUCTS ON BOTH LISTS REFTEL IS LESS THAN $2 MILLION. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY HAS DONE QUICK CHECK OF GOS TRADE STATISTICS FOR 1976 TO DETERMINE THE VALUE OF SINGAPORE'S IMPORTS FROM U.S. AND FROM OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES OF GOODS ON ITS EXCHANGE AND VOLUNTARY OFFER LISTS. ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME QUESTION ABOUT THE ACCURACY OF THE LIST (GOS, FOR EXAMPLE, LEVIES NO DUTY ON BTN 42.02.910, HANDBAGS; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND BTN 22.06-510 IS NOT SHAMPOO), IT APPEARS THAT THE GOS HAS GIVEN AWAY VERY LITTLE TO ITS ASEAN PARTNERS. LIKEWISE, THE U.S. DOES NOT STAND TO LOSE MUCH IN TRADE IF ALL TARIFF CUTS ON THE LISTS ARE IMPLEMENTED. BY OUR ROUGH RECKONING, U.S. EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE DURING 1976 IN ALL THE LISTED ITEMS AMOUNTED TO ABOUT US$1.8 MILLION, AND ASEAN EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE ABOUT $8.2

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MILLION.

3. MALAYSIA STANDS TO GAIN THE MOST IN TERMS OF VALUE OF EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE; INDONESIA, SURPRISINGLY, EXPORTED NOTHING ON THE GOS OFFER LISTS TO SINGAPORE LAST YEAR.

4. THE LARGEST SINGLE OFFERING IS FOR BTN 61.01.900, MEN'S OUTERGARMENTS, IMPORTS OF WHICH TOTALLED $2.4 MILLION IN 1976. THE NEXT LARGEST SINGLE ITEM IS BTN 17.01,100, RAW SUGAR, TOTALLING $1.8 MILLION. THE LATTER BENEFIT, HOWEVER, GOES EXCLUSIVELY TO THAILAND. THE BULK OF SINGAPORE'S OFFERINGS ARE GARMETS, ON WHICH THE GOS LEVIES A 15 PERCENT TARIFF. WHILE THE TEXTILE AND GARMENT INDUSTRY IS STILL AN IMPORTANT SECTOR IN SINGAPORE'S ECONOMY, IT IS RECEIVING LESS AND LESS ATTENTION AS THE GOS CONCENTRATES ON THE ACQUISITION OF MORE HIGH-TECHNOLOGY AND HIGH AVLUE-ADDED INDUSTRIES. PROSPECTIVELY, THEREFORE, IT HAS LITTLE TO LOSE IN RE-MOVING SOME OF THE PROTECTION FROM ITS GARMENT INDUSTRY.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS LIST IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF SOME BASIC PROBLEMS THE ASEAN COUNTRIES FACE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC INTEGRATION. THERE HAS BEEN AN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO FIND OFFERS ATTRACTIVE TO ALL ASEAN MEMBERS, BUT SINGAPORE WILL FIND FEW ITEMS ON THE LISTS IN WHICH IT HAS A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE. LOOKING AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

THE OFFERS OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES, IT STRIKES US THAT THERE ARE FEW, IF ANY, MANUFACTURED ITEMS WHICH ALL OF THE COUNTRIES COULD NOT READILY PRODUCE IF THEY SO DESIRED. AT BEST, IT WILL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE THE FIVE COUNTRIES MANAGE TO DEVISE A FORMULA TO OVERCOME THE BASIC COMPETITIVENESS, RATHER THAN COMPLEMENTARITY, OF FOUR OF THE FIVE ECONOMIES.
HOLDRIDGE

NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 06-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SINGAP03853
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MANILA 13661
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 1376322
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASEAN TARIFF CUTS
TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, US, ASEAN
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Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7b0f784d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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